BATMAN® BEYOND

HUSH BEYOND

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BATMAN BEYOND

HUSH BEYOND

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PART 1: HISTORY REPEATS

BATMAN BEYOND #1 Variant cover by J.H. Williams III

NEO-GOTHAM.

CADMUS LABS.

WE'RE *LUCKY* HE ONLY KILLED THESE TWO.

ACTUALLY... HE MURDERED *THREE MORE* ON HIS WAY OUT.

ADDITIONALLY, TWO MORE WERE ASSAULTED. ONE HAS A *CRACKED SKULL*, THE OTHER HAS *TWO BROKEN ARMS.*

SECURITY 478

THIS IS *WALLER.* SUBJECT HAS ESCAPED THE FACILITY. STAND DOWN FROM ALERT.

I WANT TO KNOW HOW THIS *HAPPENED*, DOCTOR REID.

ANNUAL PHYSICAL, DIRECTOR. WE HAD TO INDUCE *CONSCIOUSNESS* TO RUN CERTAIN *TESTS.*

BASED ON *PREVIOUS* PHYSICALS, WE THOUGHT SEDATION LEVELS WERE *ADEQUATE.*

BUT HE *EXCEEDED* EXPECTATIONS?

HIS ABILITY TO SHRUG OFF THE DRUGS, HIS *ALERTNESS*, HIS *REFLEXES...*

NOT TO MENTION HE HASN'T *WALKED* IN--

MM.

HE STOPPED *HERE* ON HIS WAY OUT, RIPPED OUT HIS *SUBCUTANEOUS TRACKING CHIP...*

...THEN TRIED TO BREAK IN, APPARENTLY INTENT ON MURDERING *THIS* SPECIFIC SUBJECT. A *FULL* SECURITY PATROL CHASED HIM OFF, AND HE MADE HIS ESCAPE.

RRRRR...

DON'T *KID* YOURSELF. HE COULD HAVE KILLED *ALL* OF THEM.

KNOWING IT WOULD ONLY DRAW MORE *ATTENTION*, HE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE THE *TIME.*

WE NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR *DAMAGE CONTROL*, DOCTOR.

CADMUS CANNOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR *ANYTHING* THAT HAPPENS NOW.

GOTTA *PAY* FOR YOUR SLAPPERS, DEWEY, YOU KNOW THAT...

...I AIN'T RUNNIN' NO *CHARITY* TO PAY FOR YOUR HABIT, AND YOU FIVE WEEKS *SHORT.*

P-PLEASE, *DOAK*...

...JUST FRONT ME *ONE MORE TIME*...BOOT ME *UP,* MAN...

GONNA *COST* YOU, DEW. AND SINCE YOU GOT NO *CREDS*...

TZZZZ

...MAYBE I SEE HOW GOOD YOU *DANCE* FOR-- *HHOKKK*

SLAPHEAD.

RUN.

CRACKK

THRAKK

EH? *FIGHTING* ABOVE?

WHUMP

WHUDD

NO...

"...WHO DOES HE THINK *HE* IS?!"

STOP *PLAYING* WITH HIM. *FINISH* IT.

WHAM

HEY, IF *YOU* KNOW A BETTER WAY TO STOP A MASTER HYPNOTIST LIKE *SPELLBINDER* THAN BY HITTING HIM SO FAST HE CAN'T PUT A *WHAMMY* ON YOU--

I *DO*...

...MAKE A *FIST.*

OH.

OWW!

GOOD CALL.

GUESS I'M A LITTLE *TIRED,* WITH SPELLBINDER *TONIGHT, INQUE* THE LAST *TWO,* THAT WEIRD CONVENTION OF *JOKERZ* EARLIER IN THE WEEK...

THOK

MCGINNIS...

...NO *EXCUSES.* JUST DO THE *JOB.*

YOU TAKE A LOT OF *FUN* OUT OF LIFE, YOU KNOW THAT?

DON'T GET ME *WRONG*, I'M NOT *COMPLAINING*...

...I'M JUST SAYING IT GETS A LITTLE-- *WHOA--OA!*

TERRY! WHAT'S GOING *ON?!*

JUST A MINOR *HICCUP*... DON'T GET YOUR *GIRDLE* IN A KNOT...

GUHH!

HOOFF!

MCGINNIS! MCGINNIS!

LISTEN, I CAN'T DO THIS WITH ONE ARM OCCUPIED *AND* YOU IN MY EAR-- *WHUFF!*

TALKING TO YOURSELF, BATMAN? HEARING *VOICES?*

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GOING *CRAZY*... WISH I COULD TAKE *CREDIT*...

...BUT I'LL JUST TAKE *ADVANTAGE*, INSTEAD!

YOU MIGHT WANT TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER LETTING *GO*, BATMAN...

YEAH, THAT'S *ALWAYS* BEEN MY PROBLEM, SWIRLY...

...I'VE NEVER REALLY KNOWN *WHEN* TO QUIT.

IF I EVER *DO*, THOUGH...

...I'LL LET *YOU* GIVE THE TOAST AT THE *RETIREMENT DINNER.*

KOK

YOU WANT ANYTHING *SPECIAL* DONE WITH HIM?

NOTHING SPECIAL. JUST GIVE HIM A RIDE ON THE WESTBOUND *"C"* BUS.

THE ONE THAT GOES BY THE *NINTH PRECINCT.*

GOTCHA.

OKAY, MR. WAYNE, YOU *TRACKING* ME AGAIN? I'VE TAKEN CARE OF SPELLBINDER...

WE'VE GOT AN *ARSON* DOWN IN THE *AVENUES.*

BLAZE IS *UNDER CONTROL,* BUT THE *FIREBUG'S* FLED THE SCENE ON FOOT...

OKAY, JUST GIVE ME A *MINUTE,* ALL RIGHT?

I'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR *TWELVE HOURS* AND NEED TO--

BATMAN!

HOW'S EVERYONE'S FAVORITE *LONER?*

WHAT--?

OH. *MY* BAD.

I FIGURED YOU'D SEE ME TELEPORT IN, BUT FORGOT THE EFFECT WOULD BE PRETTY *SMALL.*

MICRON.

HOW'VE YOU BEEN? WE'VE BEEN KEEPING AN *EYE* ON YOU.

THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* WAS THINKING YOU MIGHT WANT *ANOTHER CHANCE* TO JOIN UP.

I KNOW YOU TOLD US YOU WEREN'T A *JOINER,* BUT WE THINK YOU'RE *MISSING OUT.* WE'D BE A LOT OF *HELP* WITH YOUR *ROGUES,* AND *VICE VERSA.*

PLUS, THE LEAGUE DOESN'T FEEL *RIGHT* WITHOUT A *GOOD, SCARY DETECTIVE.*

LOOK, I'M *FLATTERED* AND EVERYTHING...

...BUT THE ANSWER'S *STILL* NO.

I'VE GOT *ENOUGH* TO DO IN NEO-GOTHAM. *MORE* THAN ENOUGH.

I *KNOW* HOW JUSTICE LEAGUES WORK. YOU SIGN UP TO HELP OUT *ONCE IN A WHILE,* NEXT THING YOU KNOW, YOU'RE GOING ACROSS THE GALAXY *THREE TIMES A WEEK.*

AND WHILE YOU'RE AWAY, *PEOPLE* ARE GETTING *KILLED* IN YOUR *BACKYARD.*

DEET

WHOOOSSH

WELL, *NEVER SAY NEVER,* OKAY?

FAR AS *WE'RE* CONCERNED, THE DOOR STAYS *OPEN.*

I'LL KEEP IT IN MIND.

THANKS.

PLEASE... I DON'T EVEN *KNOW* YOU...

THAT DOESN'T MATTER *ONE BIT,* PHIL... YOU SHOULDN'T'VE LISTED YOURSELF IN THE *COMM DIRECTORY...*

I KNOW WHO *YOU* ARE *AND* WHAT YOU'VE DONE...

...AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME SEND A *MESSAGE*...

SZZZAKKK

EEEYAHH!!

...WHICH MIGHT BE THE FIRST OF *MANY* MESSAGES.

IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW *SMART* THIS *"BATMAN"* IS.

NOW THEN... LET'S GET *STARTED.*

HEY! I'M BACK!

MR. WAYNE...?

HELLO...? MR. WAYNE?

ACE, *TELL* ME HE'S NOT UPSTAIRS WATCHING THAT *ZORRO* DIGI AGAIN...

I ONLY WATCH THAT MOVIE *ONCE A YEAR.*

ONCE.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE GOING BACK *THERE?*

NEW ITEMS FOR THE *UTILITY BELT.* I'LL SHOW THEM TO YOU WHEN THEY'RE *READY.*

C'MON, GIVE ME A *SNEAK PEEK...* I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY WATCHED YOU *WORK* ON THESE BEFORE...

MCGINNIS.

WHEN THEY'RE *READY.*

WHAT HELD YOU UP COMING *BACK?*

HUH? OH...

...MICRON SHOWED UP. ASKED ME TO JOIN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE *AGAIN.*

TELL HIM *NO.*

I DID. I'M SAYING NO AT *LEAST* UNTIL THEY INVENT A *THIRTY-SIX-HOUR DAY.*

BETWEEN *SCHOOL,* TRYING TO HAVE A *SOCIAL LIFE,* AND MY *"PART-TIME JOB"* WITH YOU...

IT'S THE *RIGHT CHOICE,* SAYING NO TO THEM.

I *NEVER* FELT COMPLETELY AT HOME SERVING WITH THEM AS BATMAN.

TOO MANY *VARIABLES.* TOO *UNSTABLE,* NOT KNOWING *EXACTLY* WHAT A PARTNER WAS GOING TO DO IN A GIVEN MOMENT.

I DON'T LIKE RELYING ON *ANYONE.*

YEAH? INCLUDING ME?

YOU'VE DONE *WELL ENOUGH.* SO FAR.

"WELL ENOUGH"? "SO FAR"?

ALERT THE VID-CREWS AND DATA-STREAMERS! BRUCE WAYNE JUST GAVE ME A *MILI-KUDO!*

FINE. I'M GOING *HOME.* MAYBE I CAN GET *TWO* HOURS OF SLEEP BEFORE--

WAIT.

MURDER REPORT COMING THROUGH.

MALE. ELDERLY. NAME... *PHILLIP COBB.*

THAT NAME SUPPOSED TO *MEAN* ANYTHING TO ME?

TO *YOU?* NO.

TO *ME...* *YES.*

HE CALLED HIMSELF THE *SIGNALMAN.* NOT THE MOST *DANGEROUS* OF MY ENEMIES, BUT HE HAD HIS *MOMENTS.*

ONE OF THE *FEW* THAT ULTIMATELY SERVED HIS TIME, WENT *STRAIGHT,* AND *STAYED* THAT WAY.

POLICE HAVE CALLED A *SPECIAL-CIRCUMSTANCES CRIME* UNIT TO THE SCENE.

I WANT *YOU* DOWN THERE.

YOU *GOT* IT.

AFTER ALL...

...SLEEP IS *OVERRATED.*

...PROBABLY JUST A *COINCIDENCE*...

GUY GETS STABBED *TWICE* IN THE *HEART*, *TWICE* IN THE *THROAT*, WITH *TWO DIFFERENT KNIVES?* THAT'S *NO* COINCIDENCE, THAT'S *RITUAL*...

YOU *GETTING* THIS? THEY'RE SAYING NOTHING WAS *STOLEN.* THIS GUY WAS *DEFINITELY* TARGETED.

I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THEY'RE SAYING THE NUMBER *"TWO"* IN THERE, OVER AND OVER...

COME ON, YOU'RE NOT THINKING *TWO-FACE*...

YOU TOLD ME HE DISAPPEARED *FOREVER* AGO.

OLD GHOSTS HAVE A WAY OF COMING *BACK*... ESPECIALLY IF YOU NEVER SAW THE *BODY.*

WELL, EVEN IF IT *WAS* HIM... WOULDN'T HE HAVE TO BE, LIKE, *YOUR* AGE?

I DON'T CARE *WHAT* AGE HARVEY DENT IS, IF HE'S *KILLING PEOPLE.*

STAY *PUT* WHILE I CALL UP HIS OLD--

WOOF WOOP

WOOP WOOOOWOO

ARE THOSE *SIRENS?*

YEAH. HANG ON...

LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING GOING ON AT *ST. JAMES HOSPITAL*...

ST. JAMES? *GET OVER THERE!*

WHY THE *HUSTLE?*

BECAUSE WHEN *ARKHAM ASYLUM* DISPERSED ITS PATIENTS YEARS BACK, *SOME* OF THEM WENT TO THE ST. JAMES *PSYCH WARD...*

...INCLUDING *JERVIS TETCH, THE MAD HATTER.*

TWO OF MY OLD ENEMIES IN SUCH *CLOSE PROXIMITY,* ONE OF WHOM HAS BEEN *MURDERED...*

I *HEAR* YOU. I'LL CHECK IT OUT.

GOING *DARK.*

PERIMETER CONTROL REPORTING. WE ARE *SEALING* AND HAVE BEGUN *EVACUATING* THE BUILDING... INTRUDER IS STILL BELIEVED TO BE *INSIDE...*

PATIENTS ARE STILL IN THERE!

AND WE'LL HAVE EVERYBODY *OUT* AS SOON AS WE CAN, DOCTOR.

POL

OKAY, I'M *INSIDE,* ARE YOU *RECEIVING?*

YES. USE *HIGHEST CAUTION,* DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

STAIRS

TETCH SUPPOSEDLY *BURNED OUT* HIS OWN MIND THE LAST TIME I FOUGHT HIM, BUT THAT WAS A *LONG* TIME AGO...

AND IF IT'S *TWO-FACE* RUNNING AROUND IN THERE AFTER KILLING *SIGNALMAN*...

YEAH, *HARVEY DENT'S* FILE I'VE *READ.*

DON'T WORRY, I'M *PREPARED.*

WIND IN MY HAIR...*HATE* THE WIND IN MY HAIR...

MUSTN'T DRINK THE *TEA*...

10
6

EEEEEEEE!!

THAT'S NOT TETCH!

SH-BAMM

OOOOOMM

THAM

MCGINNIS! REPORT!

SHHOOO

HOLD TIGHT, MR. WAYNE. I'M FOLLOWING THE *SCREAMS.*

HEY!

NO...NOT YET...

NURSE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

HE... HE WAS GOING TO *KILL* ME!

IT'S OKAY... HE'S *GONE* NOW...

HE WANTED ME TO TELL HIM WHERE *MISTER TETCH* WAS, AND WHEN I SAID I *DIDN'T KNOW,* HE WASN'T ON MY *FLOOR,* HE STARTED *CUTTING* ME, JUST *LITTLE* ONES!

HE SAID THEY'D GET *WORSE* IF I DIDN'T *TELL* HIM!

I SWORE! I SWORE I DIDN'T KNOW!

I KNOW, I KNOW... LISTEN, DID HE SAY ANYTHING *ELSE?*

JUST *ONE* THING... I COULDN'T STOP *CRYING...*

JUST... JUST BEFORE HE RAISED THE *KNIFE* TO CUT MY *THROAT...*

...HE TOLD ME TO "*HUSH...*"

PART 2: PAST CRIMES

AUTHORITIES NOW SAY THERE IS A *DEFINITIVE* LINK BETWEEN THE RECENT KILLING OF *PHILLIP COBB,* THE FORMER BATMAN VILLAIN KNOWN AS THE *SIGNALMAN,* AND THE VIOLENCE AT *ST. JAMES HOSPITAL* EARLY THIS MORNING.

POLICE COMMISSIONER *BARBARA GORDON* STRESSED THAT THE POLICE FORCE DOES *NOT* REFER TO THIS NEW KILLER AS *"HUSH,"* AND THAT NAME HAS *ONLY* FOUND FAVOR BECAUSE A POTENTIAL *VICTIM* OF THE MURDERER CLAIMS HE TOLD HER TO *"HUSH"* BEFORE PREPARING TO DELIVER THE *FINAL STRIKE.*

VIOLENCE AT ST. JAMES HOSPITAL POLICE CO

MITTEE FIRED A BROAD FUSILLADE AGAINST INVESTMENT BANKS ■ CREWS WILL BEGIN DRILLING BY THURSDAY AS PART OF A $500 BILLIO AN ARMY NATIONAL G

THE DEATH OF THE SIGNALMAN, AND THE NICKNAMING OF THE KILLER AS "HUSH," SUGGESTS A *STRONG,* IF *UNSUBSTANTIATED,* TIE TO THE *DARK KNIGHT,* WHO CHASED "HUSH" AWAY FROM ST. JAMES.

NEWS

HUSH KILLER

VIOLENCE AT ST. JAMES HOSP

DR. NORA REED

NO... OF *ALL* NAMES... *NO...*

"HUSH," OF COURSE, WAS *ANOTHER* OF BATMAN'S DEADLY FOES TWO GENERATIONS AGO...

MS. AMANDA WALLER

DIRECTOR, CADMUS LABS

WAYNE MANOR

SSSZZZSSS

HEY!

YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHO I ALMOST RAN INTO TONIGHT...

THIS *MURDERER* THEY'RE CALLING *"HUSH."* I NEED YOU TO TELL ME *EXACTLY--*

ARE THOSE THE NEW *UTILITY BELT GADGETS* YOU SAID YOU WERE WORKING ON?

THEY LOOK AWFULLY *BIG...*

I *SAID* I'D SHOW THEM TO YOU WHEN THEY'RE *FINISHED.* THEY'RE *NOT.*

THE *CRIME SCENE.* DID YOU FIND *ANYTHING* THE POLICE DIDN'T?

YEAH, SNAGGED IT *BEFORE* THE BADGES GOT THERE, ACTUALLY, AND LEFT 'EM THE REST TO *PLAY* WITH... DON'T KNOW WHAT *USE* IT'S GONNA BE, THOUGH...

GIVE IT *HERE.*

I MEAN, IT'S JUST A SCRAP OF *BANDAGE...*

OKAY, EVEN FOR *YOU,* YOU'RE BEING *INTENSE.*

WHAT'S THE STORY? YOU TOLD ME HUSH WAS *DEAD.* THIS IS JUST SOMEONE RIPPING OFF HIS *M.O.,* RIGHT?

WE CAN ONLY *HOPE.*

BECAUSE WHILE I *SAW* HUSH'S *BODY...*

...THERE'S A *PART* OF ME THAT'S NEVER BEEN COMPLETELY *SURE.*

"AS MY *CHILDHOOD BEST FRIEND,* TOMMY ELLIOT SECRETLY *HATED* ME WITH AN *INSANE PASSION, JEALOUS* OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY *PARENTS...*

"HE'D *PLOTTED* TO KILL HIS *OWN* PARENTS SO HE'D *INHERIT* THEIR *MONEY,* BUT MY *FATHER* UNKNOWINGLY *RUINED* HIS PLAN BY *SAVING* HIS MOTHER...

"... AND TOMMY *HELD IT AGAINST ME* HIS ENTIRE LIFE.

KBLAMM

"EVEN AS HE BECAME ONE OF THE MOST *PROMINENT* SURGEONS IN THE WORLD, HE NURSED HIS *GRUDGE.*

KRAK

"LEARNING I WAS *BATMAN*, HE BECAME *HUSH* AND *STRUCK* AT ME *TIME AND AGAIN* THROUGH MY *FRIENDS AND ENEMIES*...

"...HOPING TO *DESTROY* ME, *BODY AND SOUL.*

"IN *MANY* WAYS, HE WAS AS FORMIDABLE AS THE *JOKER*, OR *RĀ'S AL GHŪL*...

"BUT *THAT* NIGHT, SO LONG AGO...

"...WHEN HE LEAPT INTO THE *DARKNESS* OF THAT *BROWNSTONE* ON FINGER AVENUE...

KOOM
K-KOOM

"... BEING FORMIDABLE WASN'T *ENOUGH* ANYMORE."

IS HE DEAD?

"I THOUGHT I'D *LOST* ONE OF MY *GREATEST ENEMIES*...

"... AND ONE OF MY *BEST FRIENDS.*

"BUT BECAUSE I HAD *SEVERE WOUNDS* THAT NEEDED *TENDING,* AND BECAUSE I WASN'T ON THE *BEST* OF TERMS WITH THE POLICE...

"... I NEVER GOT ANY *CLOSER* TO THE *BODY.*"

POLICE POSITIVELY *IDENTIFIED* THE BODY AS TOMMY ELLIOT.

FOR YEARS, I LET THAT BE *ENOUGH* FOR ME, BUT NOW...

SO, YOU LOST *SIGHT* OF HIM WHEN HE JUMPED IN THAT BROWNSTONE, JUST FOR A *SECOND*...

YOU'VE TOLD ME HOW *CRAZY DETAILED* HUSH'S PLANS WERE WHEN HE'D COME AFTER YOU...

I GET IT... YOU'VE ALWAYS WONDERED, JUST A LITTLE, IF MAYBE HE *WANTED* TO JUMP IN THAT PARTICULAR WINDOW.

MAYBE HE HAD SOME SORT OF *BACKUP SCAM* SET IN CASE YOU WERE GETTING THE *BETTER* OF HIM...

MAYBE, *SOMEHOW, SOME WAY,* THAT *WASN'T* TOMMY ELLIOT'S BODY THAT FELL BACK OUT THAT WINDOW...

EXACTLY. *LISTEN* TO ME...

...IT'S GOING TO TAKE *TIME* FOR THE COMPUTER TO ACCURATELY IDENTIFY AND TRACE THE *CHEMICALS* ON THAT BANDAGE.

THE BOTTOM *LINE* IS, NO MATTER *WHO'S* UNDER THOSE WRAPS, THERE'S A *MADMAN* LOOSE IN GOTHAM...

"...AND HE'S GOING TO *KILL* AND *KILL* UNTIL HE'S *STOPPED.*"

ELSEWHERE...

HONEY? JARED? I'M HOME...

HOPE YOU DIDN'T PLAN A "SURPRISE, CONGRATS ON THE *NEW JOB*" PARTY...

NO ONE WANTED TO HIRE ME AS AN ENGINEER *BEFORE* I WENT TO JAIL FOR TRYING TO BE A *SUPER-CROOK*... WHO'D WANT ME *NOW?*

WELL... *I* WOULD, FOR ONE.

THAT'S RIGHT, I HAVE *GOOD NEWS!*

AS A FORMER *BATMAN OPPONENT,* YOU'RE *UNIQUELY* QUALIFIED...

...ALONG WITH YOUR *FAMILY*...

...FOR A *VERY* SPECIAL, ONE-TIME-ONLY, VERY IMPORTANT *JOB*...

YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME SEND MY NEXT *MESSAGE.*

...THIRD VIC IS APPROXIMATELY MID-40S, AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE... NAME ON THE LEASE IS *JAMES TATE*...

TATE HAS A CRIMINAL *THEFT* AND *ASSAULT RECORD*, AND AN A.K.A. AS *"ARMORY."*

APPARENTLY HE FOUGHT *BATMAN* ONCE.

MURDER WEAPONS APPEAR TO BE *ANTIQUE UMBRELLAS*, EACH SHARPENED TO A *RAZOR POINT.*

NASTY.

WE'RE NOTING FOR THE RECORD THAT THE UMBRELLAS ARE *CONSISTENT* WITH THE M.O. OF THE *PENGUIN*...

...WHO HASN'T BEEN *ACTIVE* IN NEO-GOTHAM SINCE I WAS IN *GRADE SCHOOL.*

FIRST *TWO-FACE* COMES BACK, THEN SOME GUY GOING BY *"HUSH,"* NOW *COBBLEPOT?!*

OR SOMEONE WHO WANTS US TO *THINK* THEY'RE BACK.

I SUPPOSE YOU COULD BE *RIGHT*... INVOLVING YOUR OLD VILLAINS IN PLOTS AGAINST THE BATMAN WAS A HUSH *HALLMARK.*

AND IT'S NOT LIKE UMBRELLAS ARE *HARD* TO COME BY.

WE'VE BEEN *LUCKY* UP 'TIL NOW... HE CONFINED HIS VICTIMS TO OUR *ENEMIES.*

NOW THE KILLER'S TAKEN *INNOCENT* LIVES.

AND WE'RE EXACTLY *NOWHERE* TRYING TO FIND HIM.

WHOEVER HE REALLY IS.

MAYBE WHAT WE NEED IS A *COMPREHENSIVE LIST* OF *ALL* BATMAN'S ENEMIES, NEW *AND* OLD, AND WHERE THEY ARE AND WHAT THEY'RE DOING *NOW.*

YOU COULD PUT IT TOGETHER WHILE I CATCH SOME *REMS*... I'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR--

YOU THINK I *DON'T* HAVE A LIST LIKE THAT?

YOU THINK I WAS JUST *WAITING AROUND* ALL THESE YEARS FOR YOU TO SHOW UP AND TEACH *ME* HOW TO DO BUSINESS?

OKAY, DON'T BLOW OUT YOUR *CARDIAC REGULATOR,* I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING YOU HAVE AND *DON'T* HAVE...

JUST *UPLOAD* IT TO ME WHEN YOU--HUH?

ACTUALLY, *HOLD ON* TO THAT LIST FOR A LITTLE BIT, AND *FORGET* MY NAP... LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME *INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE* HAPPENING.

WHERE'VE I HEARD THE NAME *"DIGICLOUD"* BEFORE?

THEY REVOLUTIONIZED *CLOUDWARE DATA STORAGE* A *DECADE* AGO...

"... AND RUMOR HAS IT THEY'RE ABOUT TO DO IT *AGAIN* WITH A *NEW* CHIP.

"IF SOMEONE'S TRYING TO *TAMPER* WITH OR *STEAL* IT...

"... WE COULD BE TALKING *BILLIONS* OF CREDITS."

HI THERE.

COULDN'T MAKE IT BY TODAY DURING *BUSINESS* HOURS?

=WHOOF!=

=KRAK=

HEY, YOU'RE *FAST!*

FAST, RELIABLE AND I *DON'T* GET STOPPED BY SLAPHEADS LIKE *YOU.*

WHEN SOMEONE HIRES *CATWOMAN,* THEY HIRE THE *BEST.*

CATWOMAN? *SERIOUSLY?*

THIS IS *GREAT!* I'VE WANTED A CATWOMAN MY *WHOLE CAREER!*

TRUST ME, KID... I'M *WAY* TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO HANDLE.

BUT CATWOMAN AND BATMAN ARE *SUPPOSED* TO BE A *THING!*

IT'S AN *UNWRITTEN LAW!* A *TRADITION!*

WELL, I AIN'T *INTO* THE LAW...

...AND I *AIN'T* YOUR GRANDMA'S CATWOMAN.

I DON'T KNOW... WE'VE GOT A GOOD START ON THE WHOLE "BANTER" THING...

...AND IT SEEMS TO ME THERE *USED* TO BE SOME KINDA *FELINE TERM* FOR AN OLDER WOMAN WITH *QUICKPULSE* FOR *YOUNGER MEN*...

LOOK, I'M SURE YOU'RE A *CUTE KID*...

SHNGG

...EVEN IF YOU *ARE* COMPLETELY ANNOYING...

...BUT THE *ONLY* THING I'M IN THE MARKET FOR IS A *PAYDAY.*

WAIT, YOU'RE *NOT* INTO BATMAN...? NOT EVEN A *LITTLE?*

THEN WHY EVEN *CALL* YOURSELF CATWOMAN? I MEAN, YOUR *COSTUME* DOESN'T SCREAM "*CAT,*" AND ASIDE FROM BEING A *CAT BURGLAR,* I CAN'T THINK OF ANY CAT-RELATED *REASON* FOR YOUR-- *WHOOPS!*

YOU'RE *FAST!*

WHY I GO BY CATWOMAN IS FOR *ME* TO KNOW...

...AND FOR YOU TO GROW *OLD* AND *FRUSTRATED* TRYING TO *FIGURE OUT!*

I CAN LIVE *WITHOUT* KNOWING, I GUESS, BUT THE FACT IS...

...THIS IS A *BAD TIME* TO HAVE THE *NAME* OF A BATMAN *ENEMY*...

...SO IT'S *DEFINITELY* IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS IF I BRING YOU *IN!*

I THINK *I'LL* DECIDE WHAT'S IN MY BEST INTERESTS, JUNIOR...

...BUT I *PROMISE* YOU, I *DEFINITELY* APPRECIATE THE CONCERN!

BLAM

GUHH!

LADY, YOU DON'T WANT TO BURN THE GUY *CARRYING* YOU, ESPECIALLY IF *YOU* CAN'T FLY...

NOW I'VE GOTTA-- *HUH?!*

DIGICLOUD'S REPORTING A *BREAK-IN* AND *SABOTAGE* OF THEIR NEW CHIP BY A *WOMAN* IN A *SKIN-TIGHT SUIT.*

MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

BUT SHE WAS RIGHT *HERE...*

HOW'D SHE *DO* THAT...?

LOOKS LIKE YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW EVERYTHING *AFTER* ALL. *SURPRISE.*

FORGET HER FOR NOW. I'M UPLOADING THAT *LIST* TO YOU.

YOU'VE GOT A *LOT* OF PLACES TO CHECK...

"...AND EVERY WASTED *SECOND* COULD MEAN *ANOTHER LIFE."*

LATER...

HAPPY DEATHDAY TO YOU...

GOTHAM OAKS
SENIOR ASSISTED LIVING

HAPPY DEATHDAY TO YOU...

HAPPY DEATHDAY COMMISSIONER GORDON

THERE'S A BOMB IN YOUR GIFT CARD...

HAPPY DEATHDAY TO--

CALENDAR MAN.

THAT'S *YOU*, RIGHT? *JULIAN DAY?*

FORMER BATMAN *C-LISTER?*

W-WAIT...

WHAT'S *THIS?* FOR *COMMISSIONER GORDON?*

IT'S NOT HER STYLE *OR* HER COLOR, SO I'LL SAVE YOU THE *TROUBLE.*

KRRSH

YOU'RE MAKING IT VERY *HARD* FOR ME TO WANT TO SAVE YOUR LIFE, BUT--

HEY!

...BUT I GUESS IT'LL DO JUST AS WELL FOR *YOU,* TOO!

I WASN'T EXPECTING TO MEET YOU SO *SOON,* PRETENDER...

I HAD A *CAVALIER BLADE* READY FOR OLD "IRONSIDES," HERE...

I TAKE IT *YOU'RE* WHO I'VE BEEN *LOOKING* FOR... *UNGGH!...*

YOU DON'T *SOUND* LIKE TWO-FACE, YOU'RE NOT *SHAPED* LIKE COBBLEPOT...

...AND I KNOW FOR A FACT THE CAVALIER'S *DEAD...*

THOK

...SO IT'S TIME TO *UNMASK,* MYSTERY GUEST!

AAA!

YOU... YOU HAVEN'T EARNED THE *RIGHT* TO SEE MY FACE, PRETENDER...

...YOU DON'T *DESERVE* IT...

...BUT I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU WHAT YOU *DO* DESERVE!

I'M GOING TO *KILL* YOU!

NOV 2

MAY

PART 3: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

THEY'RE CALLING HIM *"HUSH."*

AT FIRST IT WAS BECAUSE HE TOLD HIS INTENDED VICTIMS TO "HUSH," BUT IT ALSO FITS BECAUSE, LIKE THE *FIRST* GUY TO USE THE NAME, HIS PLAN INVOLVES *BATMAN VILLAINS*--MINE *AND* BRUCE WAYNE'S.

IN THIS CASE, HIS PLAN IS *KILLING* THEM, LIKE HE WANTS TO DO TO THE *CALENDAR MAN,* HERE.

WHSSH

IS THIS GUY THE SAME AS THE *ORIGINAL,* SOMEHOW? I DON'T KNOW. COULD BE. MAYBE HE'S CONNECTED TO BATMAN SOME OTHER WAY. MAYBE HE'S JUST A *NUT.*

ALL I REALLY KNOW IS... I'M *SLAGGED.*

THE CASES, THE BAD GUYS, THE NIGHTS... THEY'RE ALL STARTING TO RUN *TOGETHER.* I CAN'T *REMEMBER* THE LAST TIME I SPENT TWO NIGHTS IN MY OWN BED.

KEEESSH

I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SAW MY *GIRLFRIEND* TWICE IN ONE WEEKEND. I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME THE OLD MAN *WASN'T* YELLING AT ME FOR NOT BEING A BETTER BATMAN.

ALL I REALLY KNOW IS... I'M TIRED...

...AND THAT COULD GET ME *KILLED.*

I'M GOING TO KICK THAT COSTUME RIGHT *OFF* YOU, PRETENDER!

THWUNCH!

MCGINNIS, WHERE *ARE* YOU?! WHAT'S *HAPPENING?!*

YOU'RE NOT BRUCE WAYNE... TOO *YOUNG*, TOO *SLIM*...

HE WAS *NEVER* GOING TO LET ANYONE ELSE BE BATMAN, THAT WAS *OBVIOUS*...

MCGINNIS!

HE... HE KNOWS BRUCE WAYNE WAS BATMAN... JUST LIKE THE ORIGINAL HUSH DID...

HE'S THE WORST KIND OF CRAZY... *SMART*-CRAZY...

TAKE HIM OUT *QUICK*... REMOTE-TASE HIM...

... WHICH MEANS YOU'RE A *FAKER*... A TWIP TRYING TO CASH IN ON A *LEGACY* YOU HAVEN'T EARNED, HAVEN'T *BLED* FOR...

WELL, *I'LL* MAKE YOU BLEED!

DAMMIT, I WILL *SHUT DOWN* THE SUIT IF YOU DON'T RESPOND!

NO TIME...

I'LL MAKE YOU-- *NNF!*

FAPP

KEEP THE SUIT *RUNNING*, BRUCE.

GETTING A LITTLE *AHEAD* OF YOURSELF, BUDDY.

OR SETTING YOU *UP*, BUDDY.

WHO ARE YOU *TALKING* TO? *WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?!*

WHUDD

ROOKIE MISTAKE... I'M LETTING HIS WORDS *GET* TO ME...

SETTING YOU UP TO *SUFFER.*

THE COSTUMED LUNATICS GIVE BATMAN HIS MEANING... *THEY'RE* THE ONLY FAMILY HE EVER *TRULY* LOVED...

THWAPP

HE'S SO *FAST*... CAN'T GET IT TOGETHER...

...SO I'M GOING TO MAKE BATMAN AN ORPHAN... *AGAIN.*

NO... *PLEASE...*

COME *ON,* MCGINNIS, YOU'VE HAD BAD GUYS TRY TO GET IN YOUR HEAD BEFORE...

I'M SHUTTING YOU DOWN...

HELLO, MR. DAY... LONG TIME NO SEE...

NO... 'M OKAY... KEEP THE SUIT *UP...*

BUT I BET YOU REMEMBER THE DAY *EXACTLY,* DON'T YOU?

GET UP...

MAKING A *BIRTHDAY CARD* FOR SOMEONE?

...GET UP...!

C-COMMISSIONER GORDON, BUT... PLEASE...

DAMN IT...

WELL, YOU WON'T GET A *THANK-YOU* NOTE FROM HER, BUT NOT FOR THE REASON YOU WERE HOPING.

I BET YOU'LL REMEMBER *TODAY* FOR A LONG TIME, WON'T YOU?

HLLK...

MCGINNIS, *REPORT!*

GETTING AWAY, HE'S... CAN'T...

STOP HIM, DAMMIT!

OF COURSE, IN *YOUR* CASE, "LONG TIME" IS *RELATIVE.*

SAME GOES FOR *YOU*... "BATMAN."

--AFTER HIM! GET--!

FORGET HUSH... SAVE THE LIFE...

BA-BOOOOM

MCGINNIS! CAN YOU HEAR ME?

I HEAR YOU. HUSH IS GONE. THE CALENDAR MAN IS DEAD.

AND THE STAFF OF THE REST HOME IS ON THE WAY. I'M CLEARING OUT.

I WANT YOU TO TELL ME--

BRUCE...

...NOT NOW.

I'M *WAITING,* MCGINNIS.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO *SAY?*

YOU WERE *ON SCENE* AND YOU LOST *BOTH* THE KILLER AND HIS INTENDED VICTIM?

UNDER *WHAT* SCENARIO IS THAT ACCEPTABLE?

HEY, NO ONE'S SAYING IT'S ACCEPTABLE... I *SCREWED UP...* I'M RUNNING ON NO SLEEP HERE AND--

DO YOU THINK *JULIAN DAY* CARES HOW TIRED YOU ARE? DO YOU EXPECT *PITY* FROM THE SCUM OF THIS CITY?

I SAW THIS COMING A *LONG* TIME AGO. YOU AREN'T COMMITTED TO THE *MISSION.*

HEY!

I AM *BUSTING MY GEARS* WITH YOU *CONSTANTLY* YAPPING HOW I'M LETTING YOU DOWN! I'M DOING THE *BEST I CAN* OUT HERE!

IF YOU DON'T *LIKE* IT, SHUT DOWN THE SUIT, I DON'T GIVE A DAMN!

BUT FOR NOW, I'M *DONE* LISTENING TO YOU! =CLICK=

MCGINNIS!

MCGINNIS!

--LAST NIGHT'S MURDER OF THE CALENDAR MAN IS THE *LATEST* IN A SERIES OF BIZARRE KILLINGS TIED TO THE DARK KNIGHT...

HUSH KILLER

...AND THE BLOOD IS ON *OUR* HANDS, DIRECTOR WALLER!

WE HAVE TO GET IN *FRONT* OF THIS, GO TO THE *POLICE*, AND WE HAVE TO GO *NOW!*

MURDER OF THE CALENDAR MAN

HUSH KILLER

NO NEED FOR THAT, DOCTOR REID. CADMUS IS *FULLY INSULATED* FROM THIS INCIDENT.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT *LIABILITY!* HE'S GOING TO KEEP *KILLING*, DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!

YOU WON'T SAY A WORD TO *ANYONE*, DOCTOR. I SAID *CADMUS* WAS INSULATED FROM THIS, NOT *YOU.*

I APPRECIATE YOUR *PASSION* ON THIS SUBJECT, GIVEN THAT YOU WERE *COORDINATOR* OF THIS PROJECT, AND NOW GIVEN YOUR...*PERSONAL* CONNECTION TO THE SITUATION...

...BUT IF YOU SO MUCH AS WHISPER *ANYTHING* TO THE GCPD...

...I'VE ENSURED THE TRAIL LEADS BACK TO A RESEARCHER WITH AN *UNSTABLE FAMILY HISTORY*, WORKING *WITHOUT* THE KNOWLEDGE OF HER SUPERIORS.

SO YOU MAY WANT TO *RETHINK* YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

"I'M WORRIED YOU'RE GOING TO *CHOKE...*"

SERIOUSLY, *SLOW DOWN*, TERRY...

DOWNSHIFT, MOM... I'M JUST EXCITED TO SPEND *QUALITY TIME* WITH MY *FAMILY*... AND HUNGRY AFTER A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!

GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP? TERRY, IT'S *LATE AFTERNOON*--YOU SLEPT THE ENTIRE DAY AWAY!

AND YOU WERE *OUT!* I EVEN SNUCK *NEUROSONIC PADS* UNDER YOUR BLANKET, AND YOU DIDN'T FLINCH!

THAT'S HOW COMFORTABLE I AM IN MY OWN BED.

THEN WHY ARE YOU SO RARELY *IN* IT?

BECAUSE I'VE BEEN SACKING AT THE *MANOR*... MR. WAYNE HAS ME WORKING *LATE* A LOT. NOW, I GOTTA GO. MEETING *DANA.*

MAYBE DANA'S BEEN SACKING AT THE MANOR, *TOO?* AND *THAT'S* WHY WE NEVER SEE YOU?

IF *THAT* WERE TRUE, MATTY, I'D *NEVER* COME HOME.

LOVE YOU BOTH. SEE YOU SOON, I *PROMISE.*

"IT'S HARD FOR ME TO *BELIEVE* YOUR PROMISES ANYMORE, TERRY..."

YOU SAY YOU'RE BUSY AT YOUR JOB, BUT IT *NEVER* GETS ANY LIGHTER, AND YOU *NEVER* GET A NIGHT OFF.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW *WHAT* YOU DO THERE.

I TOLD YOU, *ODDS* AND *ENDS*. MR. WAYNE'S GOT A *LOT* OF ODDS.

THERE ARE *OTHER* JOBS YOU COULD GET, YOU KNOW. ONES THAT WOULD LET US SEE *MORE* OF EACH OTHER.

DANA, I *SWEAR*, I'LL MAKE MORE TIME FOR US. I *LIKE* THIS JOB. HE *NEEDS* ME.

AND I DON'T?

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING *TOWARDS*, TERRY? WHERE IS THIS JOB GOING TO *TAKE* YOU?

ARE YOU LOOKING AT A *CAREER?*

IS YOUR *WHOLE LIFE* GOING TO BE WORKING FOR BRUCE WAYNE...

...AND *NOTHING* ELSE?

"HELLO...?"

HEY, *MR. WAYNE...?* I THINK WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT WHAT *HAPPENED* LAST NIGHT...

HELLO? MR. WAYNE?

ACE?

I TOLD YOU THAT AREA WAS OFF LIMITS...

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

ME?

ME?!?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT ARE THESE?!

I TOLD YOU. I'VE SEEN THE WAY YOU'RE HEADED FOR A LONG TIME.

IF YOU WON'T TAKE THE MISSION SERIOUSLY, MY BAT-WRAITHS WILL.

THEY CAN BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE, THEY DON'T GET TIRED, THEY DON'T HAVE DOUBTS, THEY FOLLOW ORDERS, AND THEY WILL NOT FAIL.

ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU TOLD ME A LONG TIME AGO THAT I HAD YOUR TRUST!

NOW, YOU'RE TAKING THE SUIT AWAY FROM ME?

MAN, I'VE LIED TO *EVERYONE* I LOVE, AND GIVEN UP *EVERYTHING* FOR YOU!

SOMETIMES I THINK YOU WON'T BE HAPPY UNTIL I'M *DEAD IN THE STREET* WITH SOME CRAZY *BLACK-CAPE GADGET* STICKING OUT OF MY CHEST!

YOU HAVEN'T DONE *ANYTHING* FOR ME, AND YOU *HAVEN'T* GIVEN UP EVERYTHING, YOU POUTY LITTLE *BRAT.* NOT LIKE I HAVE.

AND AS LONG AS THERE'S CRIME, I *WON'T* BE HAPPY.

I'M *NOT* TAKING THE SUIT. THE BAT-WRAITHS ARE GOING TO BE YOUR *BACKUP.* UNTIL YOU DECIDE WHAT YOU *WANT.*

IF *YOU* NEVER NEEDED BACKUP, THEN NEITHER DO I!

I'M BRINGING HUSH *IN,* THEN YOU CAN *HAVE* YOUR STUPID SUIT!

"I APPRECIATE YOUR TAKING THE TIME TO *SEE* ME..."

...AND I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE LOOKING *WELL*, MR. DRAKE.

ON MY WAY TO FEELING *NORMAL* FOR THE FIRST TIME IN... I DON'T KNOW. HOW'S THE OLD MAN?

HE'S... THE OLD MAN. LISTEN, I HATE TO HAVE TO *ASK* YOU THIS...

...BUT CAN I TELL YOU WHERE I WAS AT THE TIMES OF THESE RECENT KILLINGS?

HAVE I HAD ANY *SPELLS* OR *BLACKOUTS* LIKE WHEN THE JOKER *"REINCARNATED"* HIMSELF THROUGH ME?

YES.

THE *FIRST* THING WE DID AFTER I GOT OUT OF THE HOSPITAL WAS FIT ME WITH A *24-HOUR BODY CAM.*

WE'VE KEPT *ALL* THE DIGIS. YOU'RE WELCOME TO THEM.

I'VE BEEN PHYS- *AND* PSYCH-EVALED EVERY TWO WEEKS. THERE'S BEEN *NO* SIGN OF JOKER-WARE IN MY BODY, AND NO RESIDUAL *BRAIN ANOMALIES.*

I'M *FREE* OF THE JOKER... OF *ALL* OF IT... FOR *GOOD.*

GLAD TO *HEAR* THAT, BUT THE KILLER IS SOMEONE WITH AS MUCH KNOWLEDGE OF MR. WAYNE AS YOU...

THERE'S *ONE* PERSON YOU MIGHT TRY...

...BUT HE WON'T BE AS *WELCOMING* AS I WAS.

CAN'T BELIEVE MR. WAYNE HASN'T SHUT DOWN THE SUIT...

...I BET HE *WOULD* IF HE KNEW WHO I WAS GOING TO VISIT.

KID...

...THIS IS WARNING NUMBER *TWO.* *THIS* CAT DOESN'T *LIKE* BEING TAILED.

HWHUH--?

AND IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF *PUPPY-LOVE STALKING THING* BECAUSE OF THE WHOLE BATMAN/CATWOMAN HISTORY...

--OFF! GET--!

...I'M NOT A *FAN* OF *PUPPIES.*

THWAMM

UNGH!

I WASN'T-- OOF!

SHOKK

YOU AND I *DON'T* HAVE TO MIX IT UP. I AIN'T A *CRACKPOT,* LIKE YOUR *OTHER* DANCE PARTNERS. I'M JUST A *HIRED HAND,* AND BESIDES...

...I COULD KICK YOUR POINTY EARS NINE DIFFERENT WAYS.

FWIPP

I *WASN'T* TAILING YOU, BUT I'M GLAD I RAN INTO YOU...

SOMEONE'S *KILLING* SUPER-CROOKS, SPECIFICALLY ONES WITH *ANY* TIES TO BATMAN.

AND EVEN THOUGH YOU AND I HAVE NO HISTORY *PERSONALLY,* THAT *INCLUDES* YOU.

NNGH!

SO YOU NEED TO GO BACK TO YOUR *LITTER BOX* AND WAIT THIS--

HAVEN'T I *SHOWN* YOU I CAN HANDLE MYSELF, KID?

IT'S LIKE I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU, I'M THE *LAST* PERSON YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT.

HOW--?!

YOU DO *YOUR* JOB, I'LL DO *MINE*...

WAIT...!

... AND NEITHER ONE OF US HAS TO HURT THE OTHER.

GONE.

OF COURSE.

WHEN THIS IS OVER, I *HAVE* TO LEARN HOW SHE DOES THAT.

OUT OF THE NEST-AERIAL

K-CHUNG

THE GRA

EXCUSE ME, MR. GRAYSON...?

...I WAS HOPING I COULD *TALK* TO YOU FOR A MINUTE?

THE TRACKER'S *ON* HIM.

IS IT *DONE?*

GOOD. I WANT TO BE WHERE HE *ISN'T*, UNTIL I'M *READY* FOR HIM.

WHICH WILL BE *VERY* SOON.

YEAH, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR *BUS SCHEDULE. OR* WHY YOU HAVE A BEEF WITH BATMAN.

MY *MONEY?*

OVER *THERE.* I'M SURE YOU'LL WANT TO *COUNT* IT.

YOU'RE *RIGHT.*

THE CATWOMAN *I* KNEW WAS A LOT FLIRTIER...*AND* CHATTIER.

3.7

OH, SHE WANTED TO KNOW *EVERYTHING, ESPECIALLY* ABOUT BATMAN...

WHAT THE *HELL...?!*

SURE, *NOW* YOU HAVE QUESTIONS...

OKK--!

WELL, I CAN GIVE YOU *ONE* ANSWER...

...IT'S NOT *CURIOSITY* THAT'S ABOUT TO KILL YOU.

JUST *ME.*

PART 4: THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MIRROR

after Rogers

THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE A LONG TIME AGO, AND THAT *PRETENDER* RUNNING AROUND OUT THERE HAS BEEN TOO *WEAK* TO DO IT...NO MORE *JAIL*, NO MORE *ASYLUMS*...

UGGK!

...ANY CRIMINAL WITH A COSTUME AND A CONNECTION TO *BATMAN* NEEDS TO *DIE!*

GOTHAM MUST *ALWAYS* HAVE A BATMAN, BUT IT DOESN'T NEED THE LIKES OF *YOU*, CATWOMAN!

I'M *DISAPPOINTED*... YOU'RE JUST A WASHED-UP *BURGLAR*, NOT LIKE THE OTHER CATWOMEN AT ALL...

GAAA!

BATMAN WOULD *NEVER* GO WEAK IN THE KNEES AND COME RUNNING TO GIVE YOU--

LISTEN, FREAK MACHINE...I GOT *NO* TIES TO THE *LAST* FEM TO USE THE NAME, *OR* TO BATMAN!

THWUDD

SO, IF YOU WANT TO PLAY SOME WEIRD LITTLE *REVENGE* GAME, GO DO IT SOMEWHERE ELSE!

THUNT THUNT THUNT

--HELP.

SO... HAVE YOU-- NNGH--COME TO SEE HOW A *REAL* HERO DEALS WITH CRIME IN GOTHAM?

WAIT... *YOU'RE* NOT THAT PRETENDER...

YOU'RE BIGGER...

THROKK

...AND YOU'VE GOT A CAPE.

BRUCE?

CAN THAT BE YOU?

SKRASSHH

A *ROBOT*... NICE...

FINALLY FOUND A SIDEKICK WHO WOULDN'T *TALK BACK*...

PERFECT FOR DEALING WITH YOUR *STRONGER, CRAZIER* ENEMIES THESE DAYS...

...NOT LIKE *MISS KITTY* OVER THERE...

NO ATTACK? ARE YOU *TOYING* WITH ME?

HAVE YOU DEVELOPED A SENSE OF *HUMOR* AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?

MAYBE HE *HAS*...

OF ALL THE...!

...STUCK...

...OR MAYBE HE KNOWS...

WHSST

WHSSS

...IT'S *MY* TURN!

WHSST

EH...?

YOU WANT TO KNOW *WHY* I'M CALLED CATWOMAN, GAUZY?

YOU WANT TO KNOW *WHY* I'M CALLED CATWOMAN, GAUZY?

IT AIN'T 'CAUSE I'M JUST A BURGLAR.

YOU WANT TO KNOW *WHY* I'M CALLED CATWOMAN, GAUZY?

IT AIN'T 'CAUSE I'M JUST A BURGLAR.

YOU WANT TO KNOW *WHY* I'M CALLED CATWOMAN, GAUZY?

IT AIN'T 'CAUSE I'M JUST A BURGLAR.

IT AIN'T 'CAUSE I'M JUST A BURGLAR.

IT AIN'T 'CAUSE I'M JUST A BURGLAR.

DR. REID?

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT MOBILIZING *OTHER ASSETS* TO--

DR. REID...? *DAMN!*

DIRECTOR WALLER TO SECURITY...LOCATE NORA REID FOR ME, *RIGHT NOW.*

NOT SHOWING HER IN THE BUILDING, DIRECTOR. CHECKING *EXIT LOGS*...

LOOKS LIKE SHE LEFT FROM THE NORTHWEST DOOR ABOUT *FIFTEEN MINUTES* AGO.

DID SHE TAKE HER *I.D. BADGE?* DO YOU HAVE A *LOCK* ON HER?

AFFIRMATIVE.

GET A *PATROL* AFTER HER, RIGHT NOW. SHE'S HEADED FOR THE *POLICE.*

DON'T LET HER *GET* THERE.

WHATEVER IT TAKES.

IT'S A GESTURE OF *FRIENDSHIP,* MR. GRAYSON. WHATEVER GLITCH YOU HAVE WITH *MR. WAYNE,* IT'S GOT *NOTHING* TO DO WITH YOU AND ME, RIGHT?

RIGHT?

COME ON DOWNSTAIRS.

"GLITCH." UNBELIEVABLE...

EXIT

YOU'RE WORKING THIS *"HUSH"* THING FOR WAYNE. *TIM DRAKE* TOLD YOU WHERE TO *FIND* ME.

WELL, YEAH... BUT I'M HERE ON MY *OWN,* NOT BECAUSE MR. WAYNE...

...ACTUALLY, HE AND I AREN'T SEEING *EYE-TO-EYE* RIGHT NOW.

I SHUT DOWN *COMM CONNECTIONS* TO HIM A FEW HOURS AGO AND I'VE BEEN RUNNING *SOLO.*

HE MUST *HATE* THAT.

GOOD FOR YOU, KID. YOU'RE LEARNING YOUNGER THAN *I* DID.

YOU WANT TO KNOW IF I HAVE AN *ALIBI* FOR ALL THE HUSH KILLINGS. THE KILLER HAS TO BE SOMEONE WHO HAS KNOWLEDGE OF ALL THE *OLD* BATMAN STUFF *AND* THE NEW.

AND THAT'S A *LIMITED NUMBER.* YOU DID HAVE A *SPLIT* WITH MR. WAYNE, SO MAYBE THAT'S, UH, MOTIVE.

NO OFFENSE.

NONE TAKEN. YOU'RE DOING THE *RIGHT* THING.

I *HATE* THE OLD MAN, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO *KILL* PEOPLE.

SCHWAY...

I'VE GOT *RECEIPTS* AND *COMM LOGS* FROM THE LAST COUPLE DAYS. JUST LET ME *FIND* THEM.

SO, YOU'RE TEACHING AERIAL *ACROBATICS* AND *GYMNASTICS,* HUH? THAT MAKES *TOTAL* SENSE.

STILL, I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T HAVE SOME KIND OF *MEMENTO* FROM YOUR NIGHTWING DAYS... SOMETHING ONLY *YOU'D* UNDERSTAND, LIKE A JOKER CARD, OR A PENGUIN UMBRELLA...

OH, I KEPT A MEMENTO...

...JUST ONE.

WHAT THE HELL *ARE* YOU, LADY?!

HEY, A LITTLE *HELP* WOULD BE NICE, IF YOU'RE NOT TOO--

--BUSY...

BOONGG

HELLO? *HELLO?*

BLASTED *INTERFACE... MOVE,* DAMN YOU...!

WHRR-KLK WHRR-KLK

WELL, HOW DO YOU LIKE *THAT?*

I THINK THERE MUST STILL BE A FEW *BAT-BUGS* IN THE SYSTEM...

FINALLY... BACK ONLINE...

OUT OF MY WAY...

HEY!

THWAMM

UNGGH!

HEY, DON'T HIT ME... HIT THE SERIAL KILLER!

ALFRED MUST NOT BE AROUND ANYMORE... YOU AND HE WOULD TEST YOUR GADGETS UNTIL THEY HUMMED.

AAAA!

NUH!

SHLUK

KSHHZZT

DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE WATCHING *REMOTELY,* OR IF THIS THING'S JUST RUNNING ON ITS *OWN* PROGRAM...

...BUT I SURE HOPE YOU CAN *SEE* THIS, BRUCE.

STUPID OLD MAN... SHOULD'VE *THOUGHT* OF...

YOU'LL KEEP THE *MAIN POWER SUPPLY* UNDER THE *CHEST EMBLEM*...

YOU'LL REINFORCE IT TO *DIRECT* ATTACKS, BUT MAYBE NOT SOMETHING MORE *SUBTLE*...

POKK

BZZT

BZZT

TSK.

NO... NO! CAN'T LET HIM HAVE THE WRAITH FOR *STUDY*...

...BEFORE THE POWER *COMPLETELY* GOES, CATCH HIM IN THE *BLAST*...

...WAYNE INDUSTRIES BUILT THINGS *BETTER* IN MY DAY...

WHA-BOOOM

STUDID OLD MAN...

"*THAT*... THAT IS *MESSED* UP."

WHAT DID YOU DO, TAKE A *MACHINE GUN* TO IT?

NOT *ME.*

DO YOU KNOW *WHY* BATMAN USED TO WEAR A *CAPE?*

SURE. PART OF THE WHOLE "STRIKE *FEAR* INTO THE HEARTS OF THE COWARDLY AND SUSPICIOUS" THING.

THERE'S A *TACTICAL* REASON, TOO. *MISDIRECTION.*

A CAPE *HIDES* THE BODY, MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR AN OPPONENT TO KNOW *WHERE* TO STRIKE.

THE *JOKER* HAD KIDNAPPED *ALFRED.*

"WE CAUGHT UP TO THEM AT THE *STEELWORKS.*

"THE JOKER HAD A MODIFIED HUNZIKER J-108, WITH EXPANDING ARMOR-PIERCERS.

"IT'D BEEN A *WHILE* SINCE BRUCE AND I HAD WORKED *TOGETHER.*

"HE'D BEEN ALONE SO LONG--SINCE WHAT HAPPENED TO *SILVER*-- AND HE HADN'T WORKED WITH A PARTNER IN *YEARS.*

"OTHERWISE, HE'D HAVE REMEMBERED ONE OF THE *FIRST* RULES HE TAUGHT ME--DON'T LAND IN *FRONT* OF YOUR PARTNER. YOU WIND UP AS A *VISUAL SCREEN.* I HAD *NO CHANCE.*

"AND BRUCE... WELL, BRUCE MADE SURE I WASN'T GOING TO *BLEED OUT* IN THE NEXT FIFTEEN MINUTES, STRIPPED OFF MY COSTUME, AND CALLED AN *AMBULANCE.*

"THEN HE WENT AFTER THE *JOKER.*

"BRUCE *CAUGHT* THE JOKER AND *RETIRED* SOON AFTER... BUT HE NEVER CAME TO SEE ME. HE *KNEW* HE SCREWED UP, BUT HE'D GROWN SO UNBELIEVABLY *COLD* AFTER ALL HE'D LOST, HIS *PRIDE* WOULDN'T LET HIM APOLOGIZE.

"HE SENT ALFRED, *ONCE,* WITH MY *UNIFORM* AND A NOTE: 'NEW ONE WAITING FOR YOU.'

"THAT WAS AS CLOSE AS HE GOT. AND THE *LAST* TIME I HEARD FROM HIM."

HERE'S MY ALIBI. I WISH I WAS ABLE TO *HELP* WITH CASES LIKE THIS, BUT I'VE STILL GOT A BULLET NEAR MY SPINE.

LISTEN, KID, LEARN IT *NOW*... THE ONLY PEOPLE BRUCE *EVER* LOVED WERE HIS *PARENTS.*

HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT *YOU, ME,* OR *ANYONE.* JUST HIS *MISSION.*

I DON'T BELIEVE THAT.

BELIEVE WHAT YOU *WANT.*

BUT IT'S *DANGEROUS* TO STAND *BEHIND* HIM.

BREEP BREEP

YEAH, BRUCE, SORRY I HAD THE COMMS OFF... I'M ON MY WAY *BACK* NOW, AND WE NEED TO *TALK* ABOUT--

TERRY, IT'S *MAX*--

MAX! MAN, AM I GLAD YOU'RE BACK FROM YOUR TRIP TO OPAL CITY! I COULD *REALLY* USE A FRIEND TO--

TERRY, WHAT THE HELL IS GOING *ON?*

ALL THE NEWS WHILE I WAS AWAY WAS ABOUT BATMAN VILLAINS BEING ATTACKED?

AND TONIGHT THERE WAS *ANOTHER* ONE? ON SOME NEW *CATWOMAN?*

TERRY, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?

AND WHY AREN'T YOU *DOING* ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

OH-HO-HO, *THIS...*

...I CAN *DEFINITELY* USE *THIS.*

THE NEXT NIGHT.

20 MI-D

20 MI-D

COME ON, LET'S *MOVE*... I AIN'T FELT *SAFE* OUTTA DOORS AT NIGHT FOR A *WEEK* NOW.

SLOW-PULSE IT. WE AIN'T ON BATMAN'S SCREEN, AND THAT MEANS WE *DEFINITELY* AIN'T ON HIS MASK-KILLER'S.

YOU TWIPS SHOULD KNOW *BETTER* THAN THIS...

NO EXPLOSIVES COME INTO GOTHAM WITHOUT *MAD STAN* TAKIN' HIS CUT!

STAN, IT'S... IT'S NOT *LIKE* THAT!

YEAH, WE WERE *GONNA* BRING YOU YOUR SHARE! WE *WERE!*

WELL, THEN, I'VE SAVED YOU THE *TRIP*...

...AND I'LL MAKE SURE TO LEAVE YOU A COUPLE *TEETH* FER YER CONSIDERATION!

KA-POW

DANGER

20 MI-D

THAT IS THE *WORST* MAD STAN DISGUISE I'VE *EVER* SEEN.

I MEAN, YOU COULDN'T EVEN GET THE *ACCENT* RIGHT.

YOU LIKE MY NEW *GEAR?* IT CAN EVEN CUT THROUGH *YOUR* SUIT.

I GOT IT FROM *STALKER.* I'VE *ALREADY* HAD A BUSY NIGHT.

YOU ALL RIGHT, PRETENDER? YOU LOOK A LITTLE *WORN DOWN.*

I'VE GOT *MORE* THAN ENOUGH ENERGY TO DEAL WITH *YOU.*

KLK

NO MORE *GAMES.*

NO MORE FOR *YOU.*

I'VE GOT PLANS *WAY* BEYOND THIS.

THRAKK

FOR HOW TO *SAVE* AND *PROTECT* GOTHAM-- UNNGH!

WHUMPF

THE WAY *YOU* CLEARLY *CAN'T!*

THEY WAY *I* WOULD'VE GONE ON TO DO, IF HE HADN'T-- HURHH!

YOU'RE ALL *TALK*, WHEN YOU SHOULD BE *FIGHTING*-- UKK!

SHLUK

I KNOW HOW TO DO *BOTH*. AND YOU'RE SO *TIRED*, YOU APPARENTLY FORGOT ONE OF BRUCE'S *FAVORITES*...

...*NEVER* LET AN OPPONENT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON GET IN *CLOSE*.

YOU KNOW, I'VE *LOVED* THAT THEY'VE BEEN CALLING ME *HUSH*.

IT'S JUST SO *PERFECT*, DON'T YOU THINK?

SHKK

BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO *HIDE* ANYMORE.

THERE.
AND JUST IN CASE THAT'S NOT ENOUGH... HERE'S A LITTLE PRESENT FROM SOMEONE ELSE I MET TONIGHT... OUR OLD FRIEND SHRIEK.

ZEEEEEKKRRIKK

NO MORE *PRETENDERS!* NO MORE *TRICKS* TO KEEP ME FROM MY DUTY! IT'S JUST *ME AND BRUCE* NOW, AND ONCE I END *HIS* ERA OF PROTECTING GOTHAM...

...THE *DICK GRAYSON* ERA CAN TRULY *BEGIN!*

PART 5: BLOOD IN BACK ALLEYS

IS THIS *COMMISSIONER GORDON?* DID THEY *FINALLY* PATCH ME THROUGH TO THE COMMISSIONER?

THIS IS *NO JOKE!*

THIS IS BARBARA GORDON. I'M TOLD YOU HAVE *INFORMATION* ABOUT THE *HUSH KILLINGS?*

I HAVE *MORE* THAN INFORMATION...

...I HAVE THE *WHOLE STORY, ALL* OF IT!

BUT I NEED YOUR *HELP*... THEY'RE *LOOKING* FOR ME!

I NEED YOU TO BRING ME IN *RIGHT NOW!*

WE CAN DO THAT. WHAT'S YOUR *LOCATION?*

N ROGERS BLVD

I'M IN AN *ALLEY* OFF THE 1600 BLOCK OF *NORTH ROGERS*...

...BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN *STAY* HERE BEFORE--

ZKKZKZKZZ

JAMMED YOUR SIGNAL.

DR. REID, MY NAME IS *BLAINE EMMICK.* I'M THE HEAD OF *CADMUS SPECIAL EXTERNAL SECURITY.*

DIRECTOR WALLER THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED A *RIDE* BACK TO THE *FACILITY.*

EEEEEEEE!

GET ALL AVAILABLE UNITS TO NORTH ROGERS! SET UP A PERIMETER!

DO IT NOW! NOW!

THAT ACTUALLY *HURT*, DR. REID...

...AND IT'S GOING TO MAKE YOUR TRIP BACK TO CADMUS JUST A LITTLE BIT *BUMPIER.*

STILL *ALIVE*, PRETENDER?

I'M *IMPRESSED.*

YOUR *OLD FRIEND*, THE LATE STALKER... AS WELL AS THE *EQUALLY* LATE *MAD STAN*, I'M SURE... WOULD WANT ME TO TAKE *CARE* OF THAT.

BUT I DON'T KNOW.

MAD STAN... HE HAD ALL *SORTS* OF INTERESTING THINGS IN HIS HIDEOUT...

I THINK IT MIGHT BE *BETTER* TO LEAVE YOU IN THE WORLD, PRETENDER...

...SO YOU CAN SEE ME DO THE ONE THING BATMAN WAS *NEVER* ABLE TO DO...

KID...?

OH, MAN...

HELLO? BATMAN, RESPOND!

WHOA!

RESPOND, DAMN IT!

UM, HE'S KINDA BUSY *DYING* RIGHT NOW...

CATWOMAN, RIGHT? I WAS ABLE TO *OVERRIDE* THE SUIT'S COMM SYSTEMS, AND I'VE GOT LIMITED *VISUAL* THROUGH THE *MASK'S LENSES*...

I'M READING ALL KINDS OF *DAMAGE* TO THE BAT-SUIT...

NOT *JUST* THE SUIT. *WHOEVER* THIS IS, YOUR BOY'S *WRECKAGE*... HUSH DID HIM *BAD*.

BUT YOU SAY HE'S STILL *ALIVE?* IS HE *BREATHING?*

NURSING WASN'T IN MY CAREER STUDY, BUD... I DON'T GET INVOLVED IN THINGS LIKE THIS.

LISTEN TO ME! THAT BOY COULD DIE IF YOU DON'T HELP HIM, AND THAT'S AS GOOD AS MURDER!

OKAY, OKAY...

GOOD SOLDIER. I'LL TALK YOU THROUGH THIS.

FIRST THING, I NEED YOU TO MAKE SURE HE'S BREATHING.

YOU'RE RELATED TO DANTON BLACK?

I'M HIS DAUGHTER. HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?

SELF-REPLICATION EXPLAINS THE ENCOUNTERS BATMAN TOLD ME HE HAD WITH YOU. BLACK WAS ONE OF A NARROW LIST OF CANDIDATES THAT MIGHT'VE PASSED THAT ON GENETICALLY.

YEAH, EXCEPT HE COULD SPLIT ZILLIONS OF TIMES, I MAX AT NINE.

I DON'T THINK HE'S BREATHING.

THEN GIVE HIM SOME MOUTH-TO-MOUTH.

HAKK HOKK KOFF KOFF KAFF...

NEVER MIND, HE'S PULLING AIR.

EXCELLENT. THE NEXT PART WON'T BE FUN.

I NEED YOU TO *PROBE* HIS WOUNDS, *VERY* GENTLY. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR *SPURTING VESSELS* OR *DAMAGED ORGANS.*

DO AS MUCH AS YOU CAN *VISUALLY,* BUT YOU MIGHT NEED TO *FEEL* A LITTLE, TOO.

SERIOUSLY?

THIS IS THE *LAST* TIME I PLAY GOOD *SAMARITAN... EEEUGHH...*

LOTS OF *BLOOD,* BUT NOTHING *GUSHING* OR *TORN,* I DON'T THINK...

AAAAUUU!

MIRACLE. UNLESS HUSH *WANTED* TO KEEP THE BOY ALIVE.

LISTEN. YOU NEED TO *FIELD DRESS* HIS WOUNDS, THEN *SEAL* THE SUIT.

ONCE YOU DO *THAT,* THE SUIT WILL *HELP* HIM HEAL UNTIL WE CAN FIGURE A WAY TO GET HIM *BACK* HERE.

FIELD DRESS...? I'VE NEVER--

IF YOU *DIDN'T* KILL HIM POKING IN HIS GUTS, YOU *WON'T* KILL HIM DOING THIS. STAY WITH ME.

YOU'LL FIND WHAT YOU NEED IN HIS *BELT.* I'M DEACTIVATING ITS *SECURITY PROTOCOLS.*

UHHHHH...

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR *MEDI-GAUZE* AND A TUBE OF *SEALANT,* ABOUT THE SIZE OF A *LIPSTICK.*

GOT 'EM. I'LL START *PATCHING.*

I'LL BET THE BOY HAS *CHEMICALS* ALL *OVER* HIM, LIKE THE ONES ON THIS *BANDAGE...*

ONLY *CADMUS* USES THESE COMPOUNDS, THOSE *IDIOTS--*

WHRR-KLK WHRR-KLK

--EH?!

WHUFF!

YOU KNOW, CADMUS IS A *PERFECT* PLACE FOR A GUY LIKE *ME.*

I LIKE TO EXPERIMENT, TOO.

TAKE *SEDATIVES,* FOR EXAMPLE.

SURE, WE HAVE THE *GARDEN VARIETY* KIND, BUT ME, I LIKE TO *TINKER* WITH THE FORMULAS.

YOU KNOW, JUST TO SEE WHAT *EFFECT* THEY'LL HAVE.

NEVER TESTED *THIS* ONE BEFORE.

AND I'VE NEVER INJECTED ONE INTO AN *EYEBALL* BEFORE.

READY FOR A LITTLE *RESEARCH,* DOCTOR REID?

AFTER I DEAL WITH *YOU*, MYSTERY GUEST.

YOU DON'T GET TO *MY* POSITION BY BEING UNAWARE SOMEONE'S *SNEAKING UP* ON YOU.

YOU'VE NEVER DEALT WITH ANYONE *LIKE* ME, SADIST.

THNT

HKK...

THE NEW BAT SEEMED LIKE A *GOOD* KID IN *WAY* OVER HIS HEAD, SO I DECIDED TO HELP OUT...

HAD A *FEELING* LISTENING TO THE POLICE BAND WOULD POINT ME TO THE ACTION.

WHUDD

WISH I WAS *SURPRISED* CADMUS WAS TIED UP IN THIS.

TTZZAAKKKK

DOCTOR REID...?

I BELIEVE YOU'VE GOT AN *APPOINTMENT* WITH AN OLD *FRIEND* OF MINE.

OHHHHH...

STUPID OLD MAN...

YOU *KNEW* YOU WERE DEALING WITH SOMEONE WHO KNEW YOUR *SECRETS*...

--*OFF* ME, YOU--

PROXIMITY THREAT

...AND *STILL* YOU DIDN'T SWITCH UP *COMMAND FREQUENCIES.*

HOPEFULLY, THE MANIAC DOING THIS WON'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO TAKE *CONTROL* BEFORE I FIGURE HOW TO *OVERRIDE*--

NO...

DAMN.

STUPID OLD MAN...

WHOOSH!!

WHOOSH

WHOOSHH

ISHII HOME TECHWARE

THERE WE GO... *THAT* WASN'T TOO HARD...

NOW LET'S HAVE YOU BOYS MEET ME BACK AT *MAD STAN'S* FOR SOME *HEAVY LIFTING*...

OOOOHH...

LAY *FROSTY*, KID...

...YOU'RE HELD TOGETHER WITH *MAGNETS* AND *MONOFILAMENT* RIGHT NOW.

CAN'T... UNLESS YOU GOT *HUSH...*

ME? NO, I WAS *SPECTATIN'*, HOPING TO GET THE *MONEY* THAT FREAK CHEATED ME OUT OF...

HE STARTED WORKIN' YOU OVER, I STAYED *HID.*

SO... YOU *SAVED* ME? WHY?

"THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY IS MY BUD." OR *SOMETHING* LIKE THAT.

'SIDES, YOU'RE *KINDA* CUTE... IN AN *ANNOYING PUPPY* KINDA WAY.

MCGINNIS... IS THAT *YOU* I'M HEARING?

IT'S ALL RIGHT, I'M ON *INTERNAL* COMMS ONLY. HOW ARE YOU *FEELING?*

SOMEWHAT *LESS* THAN *MINT.*

THE *SITUATION* OUT THERE IS *UNSTABLE*... THAT MADMAN STILL HAS IT *IN* FOR YOU... FOR *US*...

...AND HE'S *HACKED* THE *BAT-WRAITHS.*

CAN YOU MAKE IT *BACK* TO THE CAVE ON YOUR OWN POWER?

BARELY... NOT GOOD FOR MUCH *ELSE* RIGHT NOW... HANG ON...

YOU'RE TALKIN' TO THE GUY WHO HELPED ME PATCH YOU UP?

YEAH.

HE SAYS "*GOOD WORK*," AND "*THANKS.*"

SAME FROM *ME.*

FSHOOOM

SUGGEST YOU BECOME A *HOUSE CAT* FOR THE NEXT NIGHT OR TWO, TABBY...

HOWEVER THIS IS GONNA WORK OUT, IT'S NOT *YOUR* FIGHT.

REID DIDN'T DO THIS TO EMMICK. WAS IT OUR SUBJECT?

WE DON'T KNOW, DIRECTOR WALLER. WE JUST KNOW EMMICK'S BARELY ALIVE, AND THERE ARE... IRREGULARITIES IN HIS READINGS.

THAT'S TOMORROW'S PROBLEM. TONIGHT, WE HAVE TO FIGURE REID'S REACHED THE POLICE, OUR UNSTABLE SUBJECT CONTINUES TO ACCLIMATE TO LIFE OUTSIDE...

...AND CADMUS NEEDS TO PREPARE SOME KIND OF RESPONSE.

HOW ABOUT RELEASING THIS SUBJECT? TO DRAW THE OTHER OUT?

AFTER ALL, HE TRIED TO KILL THIS ONE BEFORE, WHEN HE FIRST ESCAPED...

NO. SETTING KILLER CROC LOOSE IS JUST A RECIPE FOR COLLATERAL CIVILIAN DAMAGE.

WE NEED TO HOPE THE BAT CAN TAKE CARE OF OUR SUBJECT...

...WHILE WE PREP FOR THE P.R. FALLOUT AND MAKE SURE THIS ALL LEADS BACK TO REID.

GOTHAM CENTRAL.

MY *FULL* NAME IS *NORA ELLIOT REID.* I'M A *GENETICIST,* WORKING FOR *CADMUS.*

MY *GRANDFATHER* WAS *THOMAS ELLIOT.* HE WENT BY *"HUSH."*

I WENT TO WORK FOR *CADMUS* HOPING TO RESEARCH *MENTAL ILLNESS* AS A WAY TO ATONE FOR THE *SHAME* MY GRANDFATHER BROUGHT OUR FAMILY.

BUT DIRECTOR WALLER PUT ME TO WORK ON *ANOTHER* PROJECT. SHE'S *OBSESSED* WITH BATMAN, YOU SEE, ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT HOW *"GOTHAM MUST ALWAYS HAVE A BATMAN."*

SHE WANTED TO *CLONE* AND *MODIFY* HIM, BUT--

EXCUSE ME, BUT IS *ANYONE* HERE *LISTENING?*

AH, I'M *SORRY,* DOCTOR, *YES,* PLEASE GO ON.

--BUT WALLER WORRIED BATMAN'S *PSYCHE* WAS TOO *UNSTABLE,* TOO *INTRACTABLE.* SHE DIDN'T GET *ALONG* WITH BATMAN VERY WELL.

"SO SHE FOUND THE *NEXT BEST THING.* SOMEONE WHO'D WORKED *FOR* BATMAN... *SHARED* HIS PASSION...

"... AND KNEW HOW TO TAKE *ORDERS.*

"IT WASN'T *HARD* TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER... A *NAKED CIVILIAN CASUALTY* IN OTHERWISE *PHENOMENAL* PHYSICAL SHAPE FOUND WHERE BATMAN AND NIGHTWING CONFRONTED THE JOKER, AND THEN NO MENTION OF NIGHTWING IN *SUBSEQUENT* REPORTS.

"IT WAS *EASY* TO SNEAK CADMUS TECHS INTO THE HOSPITAL TO OBTAIN *MEMORY TRANSCRIPTS* AND *DNA* FROM MISTER GRAYSON...

"WALLER HELD ON TO THEM UNTIL *I* CAME ALONG, AND SUDDENLY SHE HAD THE *EAGER GENE MANIPULATOR* SHE NEEDED TO CLONE AND MOLD HER *OWN* PERSONAL BATMAN FOR THE DAY WHEN GOTHAM WOULD *NEED* ONE.

"WE'D *TEST* HIM PERIODICALLY AS HE... *DEVELOPED,* TAKING PAINS TO MAKE SURE HE WOULDN'T GAIN CONSCIOUSNESS *BEFORE* HE WAS READY, PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

"BUT THIS *LAST* TIME... SOMETHING WENT *WRONG.*"

NOW HE'S *OUT* THERE, WITH *WARPED* VERSIONS OF MISTER GRAYSON'S MEMORIES AND PERSONALITY, AND BURNING DESIRES TO *SAVE* GOTHAM...

... AND TO CLAIM HIS *RIGHTFUL PLACE* AS *BATMAN.*

OKAY, THANK YOU, DOCTOR, CONSIDER YOURSELF IN *PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.*

THESE OFFICERS WILL GET YOU *SITUATED.*

DICK... ARE YOU *OKAY?*

I HAVEN'T BEEN OKAY SINCE I WAS ABOUT *EIGHT YEARS OLD,* BABS, *YOU* KNOW THAT.

GOTHAM.

NOTHING EVER CHANGES.

HI, BRUCE...

WHAT'S... WHAT'S FOR DINNER...?

TERRY!

UFF! FAINTED... DON'T *WORRY,* ACE, DON'T WORRY, BOY, HE'S GOING TO BE *FINE...*

...WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM, WON'T WE...?

ACE, YOUR MASTER'S A STUBBORN, STUPID OLD...

...TOLD HIMSELF HE *LET GO* OF THE CAPE, BUT NEVER *REALLY* DID...

...BECAUSE HE NEVER KNEW WHAT HE WOULD BE *WITHOUT* IT. HE--

OH, *TERRY...*

THEN THIS *KID* COMES ALONG, DOES THE JOB, AND DOES IT SO *WELL*...

...MAYBE NOT WITH MY TOTAL *FOCUS*, BUT WITHOUT ALL MY *PAIN*...

PLASMA

...AND THE OLD MAN WHO THOUGHT HE COULD HAND OVER HIS *LIFE'S MISSION* STARTS TO FEEL *THREATENED*, AND THAT FEELING *GROWS*...

...SO HE STARTS LOOKING FOR *FAULTS* IN THE KID, *MANUFACTURING* THEM...

...WHILE ALSO MANUFACTURING A WAY HE CAN STAY IN *CONTROL*...

...AND NOW HE MIGHT *DIE* BEFORE I CAN TELL HIM WHAT A GOOD SOLDIER... WHAT A GOOD *FRIEND* HE IS...

...ALL BECAUSE I'M A *STUPID, STUBBORN OLD MAN.*

...THAT'S SWEET, BRUCE...

...BUT NEXT TIME, JUST GET ME A CARD, HUH...?

MCGINNIS! HOW MUCH DID YOU--

I DIDN'T HEAR *ANYTHING*...

...YOU BIG *SOFTIE.*

WELL, WHATEVER YOU *DID* HEAR...

...IT'S *TRUE.*

HELLO? THIS THING *ON?*

HOLY-- HE LOOKS LIKE *MISTER GRAYSON*... BUT *NOT*...

STAY *DOWN.*

HOPE YOU'RE OUT THERE *LISTENING,* BRUCE, OR BATMAN, OR *WHOEVER* IS CARRYING ON THE *FINE, DOOMED TRADITION*...

I'M SENDING THIS OUT ON THE FREQUENCY I KNOW THE CAVE USED TO USE TO COMMUNICATE WITH ALL THE *BAT-GEAR.*

ONCE IT BECAME *CLEAR* TO ME I WAS *NEVER* GOING TO GRADUATE TO BEING BATMAN, I STARTED THINKING SERIOUSLY ABOUT WHAT I COULD DO TO MAKE MY *OWN* MARK IN LIFE... AND ON THE *SOUL* OF *BRUCE WAYNE.*

AND THEN IT *HIT* ME--HOW TO *COMPLETE* BATMAN'S MISSION ONCE AND FOR ALL.

REMEMBER THAT *EARTHQUAKE* GOTHAM HAD A WHILE BACK? WELL, GOD HAD THE *RIGHT IDEA.*

THE *ONLY* WAY TO ELIMINATE THE *MADMEN, MURDERERS* AND *SCHEMERS* THAT HAVE PLAGUED GOTHAM CITY SINCE ITS *FIRST BRICKS* WERE LAID...

...IS THROUGH THE *MERCY KILLING* OF GOTHAM CITY ITSELF!

HE'S *BENEATH* THE CITY... AT THE QUAKE'S *EPICENTER*...

...WITH MORE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE THAN A SMALL *COUNTRY!*

PART 6: DEEP DOWN

TERRY, NO! HE NEARLY KILLED YOU!

LET ME GO... I GOTTA... I GOTTA, BRUCE!

CADMUS'S PET CRAZY CLONE OF DICK GRAYSON IS DOWN BELOW GOTHAM WITH A ZILLION EXPLOSIVES, READY TO SET OFF ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE AND SINK THE CITY!

IMAGE PAUSED

YOU'RE TOO WEAK... HELD TOGETHER WITH FIELD BANDAGES AND STITCHES...

IF I DON'T STOP HIM, WHO WILL?!

MAYBE IT'S TIME... ONE LAST TIME...

NO, OLD MAN, THAT TIME FOR YOU IS OVER...

...IT HAS BEEN FOR A *VERY* LONG TIME.

I'LL HANDLE THIS.

DICK...?

SO *THAT'S* WHAT I'D LOOKED LIKE WITH *TWO EYES.* I'D FORGOTTEN.

AND THE 'BOTS LOOK LIKE *YOU,* OLD MAN... *STRONG, UNCOMPROMISING,* AND UNENCUMBERED BY *EMOTION.*

HUSH *HACKED* THEM...

OF *COURSE* HE DID... *NO ONE* KNOWS HOW YOU THINK BETTER THAN *I* DO.

EXCEPT MAYBE *YOU,* ACE, ISN'T THAT *RIGHT,* BOY?

YOU REALLY TRICKED THEM *OUT,* OLD MAN...

IT'LL BE A *MIRACLE* IF I CAN BEAT *ONE* OF THEM, LET ALONE FOUR *AND* MY YOUNGER TWIN...

I'LL NEED YOU ON *WHISPER-COMM,* TELLING ME WHERE THE ROBOTS' *WEAK SPOTS* ARE.

STILL KEEP THE *TOYS* IN THE SAME PLACE?

YEP. CREATURE OF *HABIT.*

LISTEN, MISTER GRAYSON, YOU *CAN'T* DO THIS...

THE SUIT'S *ALREADY* HEALING ME... I CAN DO A *LITTLE* BIT, AND ANYWAY, LIKE YOU SAID, YOU'VE GOT A *BULLET* NEAR YOUR SPINE...

DO WHAT YOU *WANT,* KID. BUT WHETHER WE TRAVEL *SEPARATELY* OR *TOGETHER,* I'M *GOING.*

DICK...

...DO YOU NEED A *UNIFORM?*

SEE IF YOU CAN COME UP WITH SOME WAY TO OVERRIDE *HUSH'S* OVERRIDE.

WE'LL TALK TO YOU FROM THE *FIELD.*

TAKE *CARE* OF EACH OTHER, BOYS...

YOU EVER BEEN TO THE *EPICENTER,* BATMAN?

I DON'T *WANT* TO KNOW YOUR NAME.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL ME--

THE QUAKE WE HAD MEASURED *7.6.* MIGHT NOT EVEN *NEED* AN EXPLOSION TO CRUMBLE THE CITY, BUT WHAT HUSH HAS DOWN THERE WOULD CERTAINLY DO IT...

MUST BE *WEIRD,* SEEING... *YOURSELF* OUT THERE, THREATENING THE CITY...

I'VE SEEN *WEIRDER...*

...BUT NO, I CERTAINLY DON'T *LIKE* THE IDEA OF A PIECE OF ME TRYING TO DESTROY GOTHAM.

SOMEONE'S TRYING TO FLAG US DOWN. *DON'T* STOP. WE DON'T HAVE *TIME.*

NO... I *KNOW* WHO THAT IS...

...AND IF SHE WANTS A FEW SECONDS... WELL, I OWE HER AT *LEAST* THAT MUCH.

FINALLY... FELT LIKE AN *IDIOT* UP THERE, WAVING MY ARMS AT EVERYTHING FLYING BY...

UH, CATWOMAN, THIS IS...UM, A *FRIEND* OF MINE.

THE GEEZE WHO TALKED ME THROUGH *SAVIN'* YOU A FEW HOURS AGO?

NO.

YEAH, YOU'RE *DEF* NOT THE GRAMPS I SPOKE TO BEFORE...BUT YOU'VE GOT HIS *CHARM.*

ANYWAY...?

ANYWAY, ONE OF MY *DUPES* SAW YOUR *MUMMY MAN* AND A COUPLE *MORE* OF THOSE ROBOTS...

...ALL LOADED WITH SERIOUS *ORDNANCE,* DUCKIN' DOWN INTO THE *SEWERS.*

WE *KNOW.* AND WE KNOW HE WANTS *ME* THERE TO SEE HIM PUSH THE *BUTTON.*

BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW *I'M* COMING, TOO.

HE DOESN'T KNOW *WHAT* HE IS, OR THAT I EVEN *EXIST.* GIVEN HIS MENTAL STATE, YOU AND I COULD *USE* THAT.

IT MIGHT BE OUR *ONLY* CHANCE.

HEY, I WON'T EXACTLY BE WAITING IN THE *CAR,* Y'KNOW.

THIS IS *IT.* KID, TRY TO STAY OUT OF THEIR REACH...

...ONE *GOOD* HIT FROM A BAT-WRAITH, AND YOU COULD END UP IN *TWENTY PIECES,* THE SHAPE YOU'RE IN.

LADY, YOU KEEP HIM OUT OF *TROUBLE,* AND *DON'T* INTERFERE.

THIS IS *FAMILY* BUSINESS.

IS HE *SERIOUS?*

I DON'T THINK HE'S EVER ANYTHING *BUT.*

THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO *LISTEN* TO HIM, THOUGH.

CADMUS.

AMANDA WALLER? DETECTIVE *NATHAN BULLOCK*, GOTHAM POLICE.

SORRY, DIRECTOR, BUT HIS *WARRANTS* ARE IN ORDER, AND HE CHARGED IN BEFORE I COULD--

IT'S ALL RIGHT. *WARRANTS*, DETECTIVE?

WE *KNOW* CERTAIN AREAS ARE RESTRICTED BY *FEDERAL REGULATION*, BUT WE'VE GOT DIGIS FOR EVERY *OTHER* INCH OF YOUR PROPERTY.

ONE OF YOUR DOCTORS IS MAKING *VERY* SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS.

YES, *NORA ELLIOT REID*. I'LL SAVE YOU SOME *TROUBLE*, DETECTIVE.

HERE ARE ALL HER *FILES*, INCLUDING HER OWN *PROJECT NOTES*. SHE SEEMED PERFECTLY *NORMAL* TO US, BUT HER WRITINGS REVEAL A... *DIFFERENT* WOMAN.

AND YOU JUST *HAPPENED* TO HAVE THIS HANDY.

THIS IMPLIES YOU WERE *EXPECTING* US, MS. WALLER. THE ACTION OF SOMEONE WITH A *COVER-UP* READY TO GO.

OR IT IMPLIES I'M A *PSYCHIC*, DETECTIVE. DON'T RULE IT OUT.

ARE YOU RELATED TO *HARVEY* BULLOCK?

YOU'RE PSYCHIC. YOU TELL *ME.*

AND AS LONG AS WE'RE *BANTERING,* HAVE YOU CHECKED THE *NEWS?* WE'RE CALLING FOR A *CITYWIDE EVACUATION.*

LOOKS LIKE THE *TOY* YOU MADE IS BELOW GOTHAM WITH A BUNCH OF *BOMBS.* *MILLIONS* OF LIVES ENDANGERED.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT *THAT,* FUNNY LADY?

WE HAVEN'T MADE A *THING,* DETECTIVE.

NOT A THING.

ENJOY YOUR *SEARCH,* DETECTIVE. OUR GUIDES WILL KEEP YOU *CLEAR* OF ANY FEDERALLY PROTECTED AREAS.

AND *THANK YOU* FOR THE EVACUATION WARNING. I'LL ALERT MY PERSONNEL.

MAYBE I GOT *CARRIED AWAY.* MAYBE I ACTUALLY *KILLED* HIM.

OTHERWISE, HE'D *BE* HERE. HE'D BE EVEN *MORE* OF A DISGRACE TO THE UNIFORM THAN HE *ALREADY* IS IF HE *DIDN'T* COME.

THE UNIFORM SHOULD'VE BEEN *MINE* WHEN BRUCE STEPPED DOWN...

HE CHOSE ANOTHER... A *PRETENDER*... AFTER ALL I DID FOR HIM...

SO THE *ULTIMATE* DEMONSTRATION OF GOTHAM'S VULNERABILITY WILL BE THE *PRICE* HE PAYS FOR--EH?

TOK

THE *DETONATOR!*

HELLO.

CAN'T LET IT--

WELCOME TO THE *FUTURE.*

NO!

YOU NEVER WONDERED, *DID* YOU, WHY YOUR MEMORIES END *YEARS AGO.*

WHY YOU *WOKE UP* IN A WORLD THAT LOOKED SO *STRANGE.*

YOU'RE A *CLONE.* OF *ME.*

TAK

SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

AND WHEN THAT BAT-WRAITH GETS THE *DETONATOR* BACK--

I'M JUST IN YOUR HEAD? THEN WHY ARE YOU HAVING YOUR ROBO-TOYS *SURROUND* ME?

ARE YOU SO SCARED BECAUSE YOU KNOW I'M *RIGHT?*

BECAUSE, DEEP DOWN, YOU *KNOW* YOU'RE JUST A BAD COPY? OF *ME?* OR OF *HUSH?*

SPANG

THAT YOU'RE NOT AN ORIGINAL... *ANYTHING?*

WH--?

THWAMM

GUHH!

YOU'RE THE PHONY! YOU'RE THE FAKE!

MY WHOLE LIFE WAS ABOUT INHERITING THE OLD MAN'S JOB! AND HE TOOK THAT AWAY FROM ME!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF GAME YOU'RE PLAYING--

THE KIND OF GAME WHERE YOU LOSE...

...PRETENDER.

OW.

DAMN IT, KID, I TOLD YOU TO STAY BACK!

NOT FUN FOR MY INJURIES...BUT SO WORTH IT.

SKREEEK

SKREEK

COME ON, WOULD YOU HAVE STAYED BACK WHEN YOU WERE IN YOUR PRIME...

...A TRILLION YEARS AGO?

NO, I GUESS NOT.

RESTRAINT ISN'T SOMETHING THE OLD MAN TAUGHT ANY OF HIS KIDS.

BATMAN, DICK... I HOPE THE WHISPER-COMM SIGNAL IS REACHING YOU DOWN THERE...

HUSH HAS ENCRYPTED HIS COMMAND SIGNALS TO THE BAT-WRAITHS...

I MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO OVERRIDE THEM...

YES! LET'S DO THIS ALL AT ONCE!

LET ME WIPE YOU ALL OUT AT ONCE SO THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT WHOSE CITY THIS SHOULD BE!

...BUT I'M LOOKING FOR A WAY TO *INTERRUPT* THEM.

HURRY, PLEASE...

WHUMPP

MEANTIME, HE'S CONTROLLING THEM FROM HIS *BELT*... SEE IF YOU CAN GET TO *THAT* SOMEHOW...

AGH!

DIE!

WISH THERE WAS *ROOM* IN HERE FOR ME TO GO MY FULL *NINE*...

WISH THERE WAS *ROOM* IN HERE FOR ME TO GO MY FULL *NINE*...

...BUT I'M NOT SURE EVEN *THAT* WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

...BUT I'M NOT SURE EVEN *THAT* WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

SKANGG

BATMAN... STAY *WITH* HIM, KID!

SOON AS I TAKE THESE THINGS APART--

KLIK

I WOULDN'T WRITE ANY *APPOINTMENTS* IN MY *CALENDAR,* IF I WERE YOU...

YOU'RE GOING TO BE TOO *BUSY*...

SLAMM

UFF!

UFF!

UFF!

UFF!

UFF!

...PAYING FOR WHAT YOU *TOOK* FROM ME!

NNNGGG...

STAND BY... NOT SURE IF THIS WILL *WORK* OR NOT...

...BUT I'LL BE *DAMNED* IF SOME *PSYCHOTIC GENETIC SCREW-UP* IS SMARTER WITH *MY* GEAR THAN *I* AM!

EVERYONE *HOLD ON!* CRAZY HALF-BAKED PLAN ON THE RUNWAY!

ZZZTTZZZZZ

...AAAAAND... *LIFTOFF!*

WHSST
WHSST
WHSST
WHILE WE'VE GOT THE CHANCE... *NEUTRALIZE THE MISSILES!*
ON IT!
ON IT!
ON IT!
ON IT!
SLSSK
SLSSK
DAMN YOU, HAVEN'T YOU TAKEN *ENOUGH* FROM ME?!
I WON'T LET YOU TAKE MY *REVENGE* FROM ME, TOO! I *WON'T!*
EXCUSE US IF WE DON'T GIVE YOU A CHOICE, CRATER-FACE.
KRAK
AAA!
LOOKS LIKE THE OLD MAN'S JAMMER *DIDN'T* REACH THE *LAST* WRAITH...
...IT'S ON ITS WAY BACK UP WITH THE *DETONATOR*...

ONE ROBOT CAN KEEP YOU ALL BUSY WHILE I DESTROY THE REMAINING BAT-WRAITHS...THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TO SET OFF A QUAKE!

I WAS RAISED TO SAVE GOTHAM... AND I'LL SHOW YOU ALL THE MISTAKE YOU'VE MADE!

YOU MADE THE MISTAKE, "HUSH"...

...BY MESSING WITH THE REAL BATMAN FAMILY!

SKLOTCH

EEYYAAA!!

NO! DIDN'T MEAN TO--

FORGET IT, KID...

...IT'S DONE.

GET BACK! WHEN THEY HIT BOTTOM--

BATMAN

NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO SET OFF A QUAKE...

POOR CITY *FINALLY* CAUGHT A BREAK. ABOUT *TIME.*

MCGINNIS... TERRY... *REPORT...!*

ALL STABLE... WE *THINK* THE CLONE IS DEAD, BUT WE DIDN'T SEE THE *BODY.* YOU KNOW HOW *THAT* GOES... HANG ON A SEC...

THIS WAS MY *LAST* PRO BONO GIG, KID...

BUT IT WAS NICE *WORKING* WITH YOU... SEE YOU ON THE *OTHER SIDE...*

BUT *YOU* AND *DICK* ARE OKAY...?

GOOD. COME BACK TO THE MANSION FOR *DEBRIEF.*

YEAH, WE'RE--

DICK, I... I HOPE *YOU'LL* COME, TOO... AND *STAY* A WHILE.

I KNOW WE HAVEN'T... *TALKED* A LOT LATELY, BUT...

...MAYBE *THIS* GIVES US THE REASON... TO TALK. I...

...I KNOW IT CAN *NEVER* BE WHAT IT WAS... BUT...

...YOU'RE *STILL* MY *HEIR,* DICK...

DICK...?

DICK, CAN YOU--

UM, *SORRY,* MR. WAYNE, BUT HE *CHECKED OUT* AS SOON AS HUSH WENT DOWN...

THE BATCAVE.

WITH A LITTLE *FINE-TUNING,* BAT-WRAITHS AREN'T THE *WORST* IDEA... YOU SAID *SUPERMAN* USED ROBOTS FOR A WHILE?

HE DID, BUT EVEN *HE* KNEW A TRUE PROTECTOR OF OTHERS HAD TO HAVE A *HEART* INSIDE THE SUIT.

AND THAT *IMPERFECTION* COMES WITH THE *JOB.*

IF YOU STAY ON, I'LL *TRY* NOT TO RIDE YOU SO HARD... BUT *I'M* NOT PERFECT EITHER.

IF I STAY ON...?

THIS IS MY *LIFE,* TERRY. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE *YOURS.* YOU HAVE *FAMILY, FRIENDS... CHOICES.*

IF YOU WANTED TO *GIVE UP* BEING BATMAN, I'D *UNDERSTAND.*

HEY, THERE'S *NO SUBSTITUTE* FOR KNOWING YOU'VE SAVED A *LIFE.* OR *MILLIONS.*

AND JUST BECAUSE *YOU* COULDN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO BALANCE FRIENDS, FAMILY AND CHOICES DOESN'T MEAN *I* CAN'T. I'LL *MAKE* IT WORK.

BUT *SOME* HELP *MIGHT* BE NICE. MAYBE I OUGHT TO *RECONSIDER* THAT JUSTICE LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP?

LET'S NOT GET *CARRIED AWAY.*

EPILOGUE

...PLEASED TO FIND A *REPLACEMENT* FOR DOCTOR REID SO *SOON*, AND ONE *WITHOUT* THE ATTENDANT... *COMMITMENT* ISSUES.

I'M *EXCITED* BY THE *OPPORTUNITY*. *GENETICS* HAS BEEN MY FAMILY'S PRIMARY INTEREST FOR *GENERATIONS*.

I'LL BE LOOKING OVER YOUR *SHOULDER*, DOCTOR. WE CAN'T AFFORD ANY MORE... *INCIDENTS* LIKE THE ONE WE JUST HAD.

YOU *DON'T* HAVE TO WORRY... WE *THAWNES* ARE KNOWN FOR OUR *FOCUS*.

I *APPRECIATE* THAT... WE *NEED* SUCH FOCUS NOW MORE THAN EVER.

IF ANYTHING, THIS INCIDENT HAS PROVEN TO ME YET *AGAIN* WHY I STARTED THIS IN THE *FIRST* PLACE...

...GOTHAM MUST *ALWAYS* HAVE A BATMAN.

BATMAN OF TOMORROW, MEET THE VILLAINS OF YESTERDAY

Long after the original Batman disappeared, teenager Terry McGinnis stumbled upon the reclusive Bruce Wayne – and his secret identity. Given Bruce's blessing and guidance, Terry now fights crime in the Gotham City of tomorrow as BATMAN BEYOND.

With his hi-tech Bat-suit, Terry has a few new tricks in his arsenal: Invisibility. Jet propulsion. But some things never change.

Batman's original foes are showing up again... dead. And the man responsible? His name is only whispered on the streets: Hush...

One of Batman's greatest enemies is out for revenge. As Terry investigates, and gets scratched by a mysterious new Catwoman, it's clear that many people, including former partners like Dick Grayson, hold grudges against the Dark Knight of tomorrow – and today.

From TV's amazing animated series *Batman Beyond*, Terry McGinnis suits up for all-new adventures in the DC Universe, brought to you by writer ADAM BEECHEN and artists RYAN BENJAMIN and JOHN STANISCI.

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SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"